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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Thomas Jessell et al.

Serial No.: 10/789,308 Examiner : Daniel C. Gamett

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For : SYSTEMS AND METHODS FOR SCREENING FOR MODULATORS OF NEURAL DIFFERENTIATION

30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112
January 5, 2009

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

COMMUNICATION IN RESPONSE TO OCTOBER 3, 2008 OFFICE ACTION

This Communication is submitted in response to an October 3, 2008 Office Action issued by the United States Patent and Trademark Office in connection with the above-identified application. A response to the October 3, 2008 Office Action is due January 3, 2009. However, under 37 C.F.R. §1.7(a), when the last day for taking any action in the United States Patent and Trademark Office falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or Federal holiday, the action may be taken on the next succeeding business day. Since January 3, 2009 was a Saturday, a response filed on the next succeeding business day, i.e. Monday, January 5, 2009, is to be considered timely. Accordingly, this Communication is being timely filed.

Remarks begin on page 2 of this paper.